Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on December 27, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, December 27, 2002

The President's Radio Address

December 21, 2002

Good morning. As families across the Nation gather to celebrate Christmas, Laura and I want to extend our best wishes for the holidays. We hope that this Christmas will be a time of happiness in your home and a time of peace in the world.

In this season, we celebrate with our families and deeply miss loved ones who are no longer with us. Thousands of families in our Nation are still grieving over the terrible losses that came to them last year on September the 11th. We have not forgotten their loss, and we continue to pray for their comfort.

The Christmas season brings a deeper concern for fellow citizens in need. Our country is prosperous; yet we must also remember there are pockets of despair in America. Some men and women are facing the struggles of illness and old age with no one to help them or pray with them. Other Americans fight against terrible addictions. Some young men have no family but a gang. Some teenage moms are abandoned and alone. And some children wonder if anybody loves them.

We all share a responsibility to help, both through our Government and through individual acts of compassion. In this season of giving, I hope all Americans will look for opportunities to donate and volunteer where the need is greatest. By reaching out to a neighbor in need, we make our country a more just and generous place.

Our entire Nation is also thinking at this time of year of the men and women in the military, many of whom will spend Christmas at posts and bases far from home. They stand between Americans and grave danger. They serve in the cause of peace and freedom. They wear the uniform proudly, and we are so proud of them.

I have met with these idealistic young men and women across America and around the world. I know the sacrifices they make, and in every place they serve, they can know that they have the love of their families and the gratitude of their Nation.

At this time of year, we appreciate all the blessings that fill our lives, especially the great blessing that came on a holy night in Bethlehem. The Christmas story speaks to every generation. It is the story of a quiet birth in a little town on the margins of an indifferent empire; yet that single event set the direction of history and still changes millions of lives.

For over two millennia, Christmas has carried the message that God is with us, and because He is with us we can always live in hope. The world we live in is very different from the world of ancient Bethlehem. Our need for that hope is still unchanged. In all the challenges and dangers of our day, we still seek the promise of peace on Earth.

Thank you for listening, and Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on December 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 20 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Radio Remarks to the People of Iran

December 21, 2002

I'm pleased to send warm greetings to the people of Iran and to welcome you to the new Radio Farda broadcast.

For many years, the United States has helped bring news and cultural broadcasts for a few hours every day to the Iranian people via Radio Freedom. Yet the Iranian people tell us that more broadcasting is needed, because the unelected few who control the Iranian Government continue to place severe restrictions on access to uncensored information. So we are now making our broadcast available to more Iranians by airing news and music and cultural programs nearly 24 hours a day, and we are pleased to continue Voice of America and VOA TV services to Iran.

The people of Iran want to build a freer, more prosperous country for their children and live in a country that is a full partner in the international community. Iranians also deserve a free press to express themselves to help build an open, democratic, and free society.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Iranian people, particularly the families of the many Iranians who are in prison today for daring to express their hopes and dreams for a better future. We continue to stand with the people of Iran in your quest for freedom, prosperity, honest and effective government, judicial due process, and the rule of law. And we continue to call on the Government of Iran to respect the will of its people and be accountable to them.

As I have said before, if Iran respects its international obligations and embraces freedom and tolerance, it will have no better friend than the United States of America.

Best wishes for a bright future filled with knowledge and information and freedom.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 1:15 p.m. on December 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for later broadcast in Iran on Radio Farda. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 20.

Memorandum on the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth

December 20, 2002

Memorandum for the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Education, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps, the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service

Subject: White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth

An unacceptably large number of American youth fail each year to develop the academic, social, and citizenship skills necessary to succeed in our country. For example, 60 percent of fourth graders from low-income families cannot read at grade level, more than 2.6 million teens use illicit substances each month, and 400,000 teens commit violent crimes each year. Many of these young people grow up in economic and social environments that place them at a significant disadvantage.

The Federal Government has spent billions of dollars over the last 30 years in a variety of programs to address these issues. A 1998 analysis by the General Accounting Office has pointed out that there were 117 Federal programs administered by 15 departments aimed at disadvantaged youth. Some of these programs have been very successful. However, overall, the Federal Government's efforts and programs to assist disadvantaged young people have been fragmented and not as successful as hoped.

Consistent with my interest in improving the effectiveness of Federal programs in general, and in programs for disadvantaged

youth in particular, in fostering ways that citizen service can bring about important change, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. *Establishment of Task Force.* (a) There is hereby established, within the Executive Office of the President, the "White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth" ("Task Force"). The Task Force shall consist of:

(i) the Attorney General, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of Education, Director of National Drug Control Policy, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS); and

(ii) such other Federal officials as the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy may from time to time, on my behalf, designate.

(b) The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, or in that Assistant's absence, the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps, shall serve as Chairman of the Task Force. The Chairman shall convene and preside at meetings of the Task Force, determine its agenda, direct its work and, as appropriate with particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Task Force that shall consist exclusively of the Task Force members.

(c) A member of the Task Force may designate, to perform the Task Force or Task Force subgroup functions of the member, any person who is part of the member's agency and who is an officer appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, or a member of the Senior Executive Service (or, in the case of the CNCS, an employee of the CNCS designated by the CEO of the CNCS).

Sec. 2. *Functions of the Task Force.* The Task Force shall develop, and submit in accordance with section 3 through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy for my approval, a comprehensive Federal response, under existing authorities and programs, to the problems of youth failure, with a focus on enhanced agency accountability and effectiveness. Objectives shall include: (a) coordinating interagency efforts to address the problems of failure among disadvantaged youth; (b) developing a unified research plan to identify effective practices that help disadvantaged youth; (c) incorporating positive youth development practices that help disadvantaged youth; and (d) analyzing and quantifying the impact of Federal efforts aimed at disadvantaged youth. These objectives shall be carried out consistent with my Administration's implementation of performance-based budgeting.

Sec. 3. *Reports.* In performing its functions, the Task Force shall present to me, through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy:

(a) not later than April 30, 2003, a preliminary report of their initial overall assessment of the Federal response to failure among disadvantaged youth under existing authorities and programs, including a work plan that details the goals and objectives for the Task Force and evaluates the potential for expanding successful Federal disadvantaged youth programs through program consolidation, redirection of resources, and elimination of ineffective programs; and

(b) not later than October 1, 2003, a final report describing the actions of the Task Force to respond to the problem of youth failure and submitting for my approval the comprehensive Federal response to which section 2 refers.

Sec. 4. *Termination.* The Task Force shall terminate 30 days after the date of the submission of the final report as described in section 3(b) of this memorandum.

Sec. 5. *General.* (a) Agencies and the CNCS shall assist and provide information to the Task Force consistent with applicable law as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Task Force. To the extent permitted by law, the CNCS shall provide funding and administrative support for the Task Force.

(b) As used in this memorandum, the term "agency" means an executive department or agency of the Federal Government.

(c) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(d) This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23.

Statement on the Election of Senator Bill Frist to the Senate Majority Leader's Position

December 23, 2002

I congratulate Senator Bill Frist on his election to Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. Senator Frist has earned the trust and respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I look forward to working with him and all Members of the Senate and House to advance our agenda for a safer, stronger, and better America.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 21

In the afternoon, at the White House, the President received a smallpox vaccination. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

December 24

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with selected domestic and overseas U.S. military personnel to express holiday wishes and thank them for their service.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had Christmas Eve dinner with extended family members.

December 25

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush celebrated Christmas with extended family members.

December 26

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

December 27

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings. He then had a telephone conversation with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland to discuss NATO enlargement and other results of the November 21–22 NATO Summit, the situation in Iraq, and Poland's decision to purchase F–16 fighter jets from the U.S.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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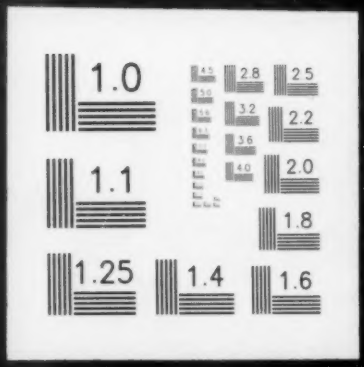
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